



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DR. W. P. TAYLOR, WILDLIFE AUTHORITY, RETIRES

Dr. Walter P. Taylor, nationally recognized as a leading animal ecologist, retired from the Fish and Wildlife Service on August 31 after 35 years of Federal service, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

Dr. Taylor has been stationed at Stillwater, Okla., since February 1948 when he assumed charge of the newly established Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of wildlife research and management, Dr. Taylor was awarded the Department of the Interior gold medal for distinguished service. The presentation was made on August 31 at a dinner given in his honor in Stillwater by a group of his friends and professional associates from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma A & M College, Oklahoma Game and Fish Department, and the State Wildlife Federation.

His successor as leader of the Oklahoma Cooperative Unit is Dr. Adolph Stebler who recently received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan and who has had many years of experience with the Michigan Department of Conservation.

Dr. Taylor received his first Government assignment on April 1, 1916, as an assistant biologist with the former Bureau of Biological Survey to carry on investigations in Arizona and other western States concerning the relation of rodents to crop production in the West. From 1917 to 1921 he was in charge of a biological survey of the State of Washington, a notable portion of which was devoted to the natural history of Mount Rainier National Park.

From 1922 to 1935, while headquartered at Tucson, Ariz., he worked on the ecology of desert rodents and of range wildlife in general in the southwestern States. In 1935, when the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Program was inaugurated by the Service in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute, the land-grant colleges and the State conservation departments of the various States, Dr. Taylor was selected to head the unit opened in Texas, at College Station. One feature of his work in Texas was the ecological survey of Texas's first national park—the Big Bend National Park—in which Taylor led an expedition made up of representatives of the Texas A & M College and the National Park Service. Because of his qualifications and long experience, Taylor was transferred to the Oklahoma unit when it was opened in February 1948.

Dr. Taylor is the author or co-author of approximately 200 publications in the field of wildlife conservation. He has been the recognized authority of the Service on the North American deer and is now serving as technical editor of a book on

white-tailed deer which is scheduled for publication by the Wildlife Management Institute. Among other unfinished projects, he has plans to co-author a book on animal ecology.

Dr. Taylor was born on October 31, 1888, at Elkhorn, Wis. He received his B.S. degree in 1911 and his Ph.D. in 1914 from the University of California at Berkeley where he majored in Zoology.

He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi. and other honorary societies; the American Nature Association, American Association of University Professors, Cooper Ornithological Club, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, National Geographic Society Wilson Ornithological Club, American Ornithologists Union, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and numerous State or local societies.

In addition, he is a member of and has held office in the American Society of Mammalogists (past president), Ecological Society of America (past president), Wildlife Society (past president), Texas Academy of Sciences (past president) and National Federation of Federal Employees (first vice president). At present he is chairman of the Committee on Conservation of the National Wildlife Federation.

Following a tour of eastern United States and Canada which will extend from September through December of this year, Dr. and Mrs. Taylor will reside at 424 W. Harrison St., Claremont, California.

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